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# Applications Systems Verification and Transfer Project

Volume VI: Operational Applications of Satellite Snow-Cover Observations -NOAA/NESS Support Study

Stanley R. Schneider

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Volume VI: Operational Applications of Satellite Snow-Cover Observations -NOAA/NESS Support Study

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Scientific and Technical Information Branch

#### **ABSTRACT**

Geostationary and polar orbiting satellite data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been used to operationally provided field hydrologists with basin snowcover percentages for inclusion in runoff models. Data reduction is accomplished thru the use of optical rectification devices and electronic color density slicers. Over two thousand (2000) satellite-derived snow maps covering 30 different basins in the western United States were provided to users during the four-year period of the ASVT project. Plans for improving snowmapping techniques on computer interactive systems and by all-digital analysis are presented. A description of the newest generation of NOAA polar orbiters, TIROS-N, and its potential for snowmapping is reviewed. Snowcover percentages for all basins determined between November 1974 and July 1978 are presented in tabular format.

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# OPERATIONAL APPLICATIONS OF SATELLITE SNOWCOVER OBSERVATIONS - NOAA/NESS SUPPORT STUDY

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#### INTRODUCTION

This is the final report of the work performed by NOAA/NESS personnel under the ASVT program of Operational Applications of Satellite Snowcover Observations. The period covered in the report is January 1, 1975 to December 31, 1978.

#### THE SNOW ASYT PROGRAM

According to Rango (1975) positive research results in both snowmapping and runoff correlations led to a decision at NASA in 1975 to operationally test the use of remotely sensed snowcovered area for improving runoff forecasts in a four-year duration Applications System Verification Test (ASVT). A contract was let that same year to NOAA/NESS to promote a study in support of the snow ASVT. Since that time data from NOAA/NESS have been regularly shipped on request to the ASVT test sites in Arizona, California, Colorado and the Pacific Northwest. These data have usually been in the form of satellite imagery, digital tapes and completed snow maps. Daily NOAA snow-cover data have been used at the four test sites to fill in the gaps created by the less frequent coverage of Landsat-1 and 2.

As part of the ASVT Program a NESS representative was sent on a two week training mission to all the ASVT test sites in January 1977. Mini-snowmapping workshops were conducted in Portland, Denver and Placerville, California. A snow survey flight in Arizona was arranged by representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Salt River Project to help the NESS analyst gain a "feel" for the appearance of snowcovered terrain in the Salt-Verde watershed.

Some of the NESS ASVT funds have been used to defray the cost of equipment purchased in support of the snowmapping study, i.e., Zoom Transfer Scopes and density slicer vidicons. However, as the ASVT program now comes to an end, it becomes obvious that its major benefit to operational snowmapping at NESS has been to make the user community aware of the availability and usefulness of satellite snowcover data. In fact, several of the basins (Rio Grande, Feather, Sacramento) originally targeted for limited-duration study in support of the ASVT have now been added to the ongoing Operational Snowmapping Program at NESS.

#### SATELLITES AND SENSORS

#### NOAA/VHRR

From 1973 to 1978, the primary sensor used to obtain data for the NESS Snowmapping Program was the Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) onboard the NOAA series of polar-orbiting satellites. The VHRR is sensitive to two portions of the spectrum, a 0.6 to 0.7 um (visible) and a 10.5 to 12.5 um (thermal infrared) channel. Coverage over most basins is available once daily in the visible and twice each day in the thermal infrared portions of the spectrum. Data from the satellite are received through the High Resolution Picture Transmission (HRPT) system at three NESS receiving facilities; Wallops Island, Virginia, Redwood City, California, and Gilmore Creek, The raw, ungridded unmapped image signals are displayed through a film recorder which produces a 25 cm by 25 cm film negative. Each negative covers an area approximately 2100 km square with 3 frames usually available per pass. Prints from the image negatives, at a normal scale of 1:10,000,000 and a resolution of 1 km (at nadir), are used in snowmapping. The VHRR achieves lateral coverage through continuous horizon-to-horizon scanning by a mirror oriented perpendicular to the forward motion of the spacecraft. Since the mirror rotates at a constant angular rate, the geometric resolution on the ground changes as the distance from the satellite subpoint increases. The resulting image produced from these signals will appear foreshortened in the area of the horizons. This foreshortening or distortion in the image can be corrected either through optical rectification or by further computer processing utilizing an algorithm described by R. L. Legeckis and J. Pritchard (1976).

#### SMS/GOES

Five satellites in the SMS/GOES series have been launched thus far. The first two Synchronous Meteorological Satellites, SMS-1 and SMS-2, were NASA sponsored prototypes. The most recent three, GOES-1, 2 and 3 were entirely NOAA funded (the acronym stands for Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite). The satellites are dubbed geostationary because their position relative to the earth's surface remains fixed. The satellite in this series that can currently be used to monitor the east coast is GOES-2; it was launched on June 15, 1977 and is stationed over the equator at 75°W longitude at an altitude of  $37,500 \text{ Km}^2$ . GOES-3, which was launched on June 16, 1978, is stationed at 135°W and is currently the operational west coast satellite. The imaging sensor on board the SMS/GOES is the Visible and Infrared Spin Scan Radiometer (VISSR). The sensor can provide imagery in both the visible and the infrared portions of the spectrum (as its name implies) as often as every half-hour. Imagery from the VISSR can be obtained in a variety of resolutions. Raw data is received from the satellite at a resolution of 1 Km but can be averaged to produce images of larger spatial coverage at 2-, 4- or 8 Km resolution (thermal infrared VISSR data is available only at a resolution of 8 Km).

The 1 Km VISSR images have been the data source for many of the operational snow maps produced since 1975. No computer programs presently exist to geometrically correct the distortion inherant to this type of imagery. However, small areas on the image may be rectified on optical devices by stretching along the axis defined by the study area and the satellite subpoint.

#### CURRENT METHODOLOGY

Snow maps are produced at NESS by first enlarging and rectifying a visible VHRR or VISSR image to overlay a hydrologic basin map. A Bausch and Lomb Zoom Transfer Scope (ZTS) is utilized for this purpose.

Registration of image to map on the ZTS involves aligning physiographic land-marks such as lakes, rivers and shorelines. After registration has been achieved the snow line on the image is traced onto the basin map and snow-covered areas are colored in. Percentage snowcover for the basin is then determined by using an electronic density slicer. The snow map is placed on the density slicer with a previously prepared opaque mask outlining the basin. The density slicer selectively color illuminates gray shades on the map. The colors are projected onto a display screen and percentage values for each color are read from a digital meter.

#### THE NESS SNOWMAPPING PROGRAM

In late 1972, hydrologists at NESS determined that NOAA-2 satellite imagery could be used to create timely maps depicting snowcover over river basins of varying size, location and topography (Wiesnet and McGinnis, 1973). Snowmapping was upgraded to the status of an operational program at NESS during 1974 (Schneider et. al., 1976) and has continued to expand in scope ever since. Indeed, areal snowcover measurements are now being routinely made at NESS for thirty critical basins in the United States and Canada. The data are disseminated to the user community by mail, teletype and telecopier.

The areal snowcover data and/or snow maps are provided to water resource managers in numerous federal, state and local agencies. A map of the western United States showing many of the operational basins is presented in figure 1. A list of primary users and information on the precise location and size of each basin is given in the accompanying Table 1. The basins are similarly numbered on table and map.

The areal snowcover percentages are dispatched over the RAWARC teletype circuit to National Weather Service River Forecast Centers (RFC) in Sacramento, Fort Worth, Salt Lake City, Kansas City and Portland and River District Offices in Great Falls, Phoenix and Albuquerque. Snowmaps are sent over telecopier or through the mail to other agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, Soil Conservation Service and U.S. Forest Service.

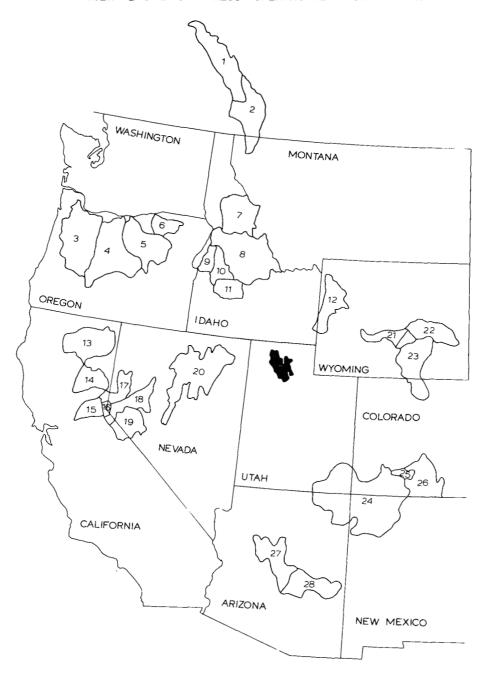


Figure 1. Map showing location of operational basins

Table 1
BASINS BEING MAPPED AS OF 1978

River Basin	Drainage Area in Km <sup>2</sup>	Primary Users
American above Fair Oaks (15)	5,601	Sacramento RFC
Boise above Lucky Peak (11)	6,941	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Carson (18)	8,864	Soil Conservation Service, Sacramento RFC
Clearwater above Peck (7)	20,824	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Columbia River above Mica Dam (1)	21,290	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network, B.C. Hydro & Power Authority, Environment Canada
Deschutes (4)	27,195	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Feather above Oroville (14)	9,386	California State Dept. of Water Resources
Humboldt above Comus (20)	31,339	Salt Lake City RFC, Soil Conservation Service
John Day (5)	19,632	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Kootenay above Libby (2)	23,277	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Missouri River above Canyon Ferry	Dam 40,714	Soil Conservation Service, Great Falls RDO
North Platte between Alcova and Guernsey (22)	12,198	Bureau of Reclamation, Kansas City RFC, Soil Conservation Service
North Platte above Seminoe (23)	15,274	Bureau of Reclamation, Kansas City RFC, Soil Conservation Service
Northeast U.S. Snow Map		NE Regional Hydrologist NWS
Payette above Emmett (10)	6,941	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Rio Grande above ColoNew Mexico State Line (26)	19,900	Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth RFC
Rio Grande above Del Norte (25)	3,419	Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth RFC
Sacramento above Shasta (13)	16,630	California State Dept. of Water Resources
Salmon above Whitebird (8)	35,095	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Salt (28)	16,141	Salt Lake City RFC, Phoenix RDO, Salt River Project, U.S. Geological Survey

#### Table 1 Continued

#### BASINS BEING MAPPED AS OF 1978

<u> </u>	DINO DEING NATED 10 OF 1570	
River Basin	Drainage Area in Km <sup>2</sup>	Primary Users
San Juan (24)	65,273	Salt Lake City RFC
Snake above Palisades (12)	13,340	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
St. John	55,167	Marine Bureau of Civil Emergency Preparedness, New Brunswick Dept. of Environment, Environment Canada, St. John Basin Task Force
Sweetwater above Pathfinder (21)	6,027	Bureau of Reclamation, Kansas City RFC, Soil Conservation Service
Tahoe-Truckee (16, 17)	7,665	Soil Conservation Service, Sacramento RFC
Umatilla (6)	5,931	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Verde (27)	17,094	Salt Lake City RFC, Phoenix RDO, Salt River Project, U.S. Geological Survey
Walker (19)	9,241	Soil Conservation Service, Sacramento RFC
Weiser (9)	3,781	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network
Willamette (3)	26,159	Portland RFC, Columbia Basin Network

#### Notes on Users:

- The Columbia Basin Network includes the Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service, Bonneville Power Administration, B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, as weel as other state and local agencies.
- Basins being done for the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, Colorado, are retransmitted from the site to field offices in Caspar, Laramie, and Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- The St. John Basin Task Force includes the National Weather Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, Environment Canada, and other state, provincial agencies.
- 4. Most basins are mapped twice weekly cloud cover permitting. The Sait, Verde and St. John basins are mapped daily cloud cover permitting. The Tahoe-Truckee, Carson and Walker basins are mapped only at the end of each month.

Not depicted in figure 1 but listed on the table are the St. John basin in Maine and New Brunswick, the Missouri River above Canyon Ferry Dam and the Northeast U.S. snow map. The Northeast analysis is first transmitted over telecopier to the Weather Service Eastern Regional Hydrologist in New York and is then rerouted to RFC's in Hartford, Harrisburg and Cincinnati. Snowmaps for the Missouri River above Canyon Ferry Dam were begun in November 1978, at the request of the Soil Conservation Service office in Bozeman, Montana.

Basin snow maps are made on an average of once a week beginning November 1st and terminating when the snowpack appears almost totally depleted on the imagery. The analyses can only be made when the basin is free of obscuring clouds. Accordingly, basins in the southwestern United States and California's Sierra Nevada are mapped more often than those in the less cloudfree Pacific Northwest.

Over six hundred snowcover measurements were made at NESS during the 1977-1978 snow season; a monthly breakdown is given in Table 2. Complete snowmapping data for each basin are provided in tabular form in Appendix B. Totals for the past four years are as follows:

Snow Year	Number of Snow Maps
1974-1975	441
1975-1976	520
1976-1977	494
1977-1978	606
	TOTAL $\overline{2061}$

The snowcover data are generally provided to users within 30 hours of a satellite overpass so they can be incorporated into watershed runoff forecast models. Quality control techniques used are described in Schneider et al. (1976). They include checks of the operational snow maps with higher resolution Landsat satellite data, computer-enhanced imagery, ground-based snowpack measurements and aerial-survey maps. The data from aerial surveys are particularly useful for quality control purposes and are provided for basins in Arizona, Idaho, and British Columbia, respectively by the Salt River Project, Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers, and the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority.

#### USER EVALUATIONS

In an effort to streamline and improve snowmapping at NESS a detailed questionnaire was sent out to primary users of the snowcover data on October 24, 1978. The questions were directed towards user needs in terms of timeliness, frequency, accuracy and quality control. Of seventeen responses, three rated the snow maps as "excellent", fourteen rated them as "good: and two rated the maps as "fair" (in some cases more than one box was checked).

The following applications of the snowcover data were mentioned: runoff fore-casting, flood prevention, water resource planning, research and development, reservoir/dam regulation, irrigation planning and inclusion in state bulletins.

Table 2

#### NUMBER OF SNOWCOVER MEASUREMENTS

November 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

American	BASIN	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRI	L MAY	JUNE	JULY	TOTALS
Carson	American	2	4	4	3	2	1 4	] 7	3	L	29
Clearwater	Boise	2	2	3 .	3	6	3	3	4	1	27
Columbia	Carson		]	2	1	1	1	∫ ı	1	Ι.	7
Deschutes	Clearwater	1	1	1	2	6	1		, . 5	2	19
Feather	Columbia		1		]			3	. 4	3	10
Humboldt	Deschutes	2	1 1	1 .		4	2	1	1	]	111
Humboldt	Feather	3	. 3	4	5	4	3	1 4	1		27
North Platte between Alocva & Guernsey	Great Lakes					4	8	į			12
North Platte between Alocva & Guernsey   S	Humboldt	14	2	6	7	4	] 3	2			30
North Platte between Alocva & Guernsey         3         2         3         5         6         2         4         25           North Platte above Seminoe         5         1         2         5         8         2         4         2         29           Northeast U.S.         6         8         8         6         8         6	John Day	2	3	2	2_	4_	2	1 1	1		16
North Platte above Seminoe	Kootenay above Libby	}				-		. 2	5	_ 3 _	10
Northeast U.S.		3	. 2	3	5	. 6	2	. 4			25
Northeast U.S.         6         8         8         6         8         6         1         42           Payette         2         2         3         3         5         5         4         3         25           Rio Grande above Colo N. Mexico State Line         4         5         5         5         7         5         5         1         37           Rio Grande above Del Norte         2         4         1         1         2         5         5         3         23           Sacramento         1         3         2         4         4         2         4         1         21           Salmon         3         1         6         2         5         1         18           Salt         1         7         9         8         4         1         30           San Juan         3         2         3         3         11         30           St. John         1         4         4         9           Sweetwater         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1			)	,	_						20
Payette         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         5         25           Rio Grande above Colona N. Mexico State Line         4         5         5         5         7         5         5         1         37           Rio Grande above Del Norte         2         4         1         1         2         5         5         3         23           Sacramento         1         3         2         4         4         2         4         1         21           Salmon         5         1         6         2         5         1         18           Salt         1         7         9         8         4         1         30           San Juan         3         2         3         3         11         30           Snake above Palisades         1         1         2         5         7         4         20           St. John         1         4         4         9         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1		1					į	. 4	,		
Rio Grande above Colo N. Mexico State Line       4       5       5       5       7       5       5       1       37         Rio Grande above Del Norte       2       4       1       1       2       5       5       3       23         Sacramento       1       3       2       4       4       2       4       1       21         Salmon       3       1       6       2       5       1       18         Salt       1       7       9       8       4       1       30         San Juan       3       2       3       3       11         Snake above Palisades       1       1       2       5       7       4       20         St. John       1       4       4       9       9       9       8       4       2       2       4       26         Tahoe-Truckee       2       1       1       1       1       1       7       7       9       8       4       2       31       3       3       1       1       7       1       1       1       1       7       26       3       3       3       4		1						!	1	4	
N. Mexico State Line         4         5         5         5         7         5         5         1         37           Rio Grande above Del Norte         2         4         1         1         2         5         5         3         23           Sacramento         1         3         2         4         4         2         4         1         21           Salmon         3         1         6         2         5         1         18           Salt         1         7         9         8         4         1         30           San Juan         3         2         3         3         11           Snake above Palisades         1         1         2         5         7         4         20           St. John         1         4         4         9           Sweetwater         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1         1         7           Umatilla         1         2         2         2         8         4         2					3	٠, ٥	3	-4	3.	j	25
Norte         2         4         1         1         2         5         5         3         23           Sacramento         1         3         2         4         4         2         4         1         21           Salbon         5         1         6         2         5         1         18           Salt         1         7         9         8         4         1         30           San Juan         3         2         3         3         11           Snake above Palisades         1         1         2         5         7         4         20           St. John         1         4         4         9           Sweetwater         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1         7           Umatilla         1         2         1         2         8           Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walter         2         2         3         3         5 <td></td> <td></td> <td>5</td> <td>s</td> <td>5</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>1 ;</td> <td>_ {</td> <td>37</td>			5	s	5	7	5	5	1 ;	_ {	37
Salmon         3         1         6         2         5         1         18           Salt         1         7         9         8         4         1         30           San Juan         3         2         3         3         11           Snake above Palisades         1         1         2         5         7         4         20           St. John         1         4         4         9           Sweetwater         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1         7           Umatilla         1         2         1         2         2         8           Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         7           Neiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25		2	4	_1_	11	_ 2	5	_ 5	3 .	: - +	23
Salt         1         7         9         8         4         1         30           San Juan         3         2         3         3         11           Snake above Palisades         1         1         2         5         7         4         20           St. John         1         4         4         9           Sweetwater         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1         1         7           Umatilla         1         2         1         2         2         8           Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         1         7           Weiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25	Sacramento	11	3	2	- 4	4	2	4	1 _	-	21
San Juan       3       2       3       3       11         Snake above Palisades       1       1       2       5       7       4       20         St. John       1       4       4       9         Sweetwater       4       2       3       5       6       2       4       26         Tahoe-Truckee       2       1       1       1       1       7         Umatilla       1       2       1       2       2       8         Verde       2       6       9       8       4       2       31         Walker       2       1       1       1       1       7         Weiser       2       2       3       3       5       3       4       3       25         Willamette       2       2       1       3       2       2       14	Salmon	3				6	2 ,	_	5 ,	1_	18
Snake above Palisades         1         2         5         7         4         20           St. John         1         4         4         9           Sweetwater         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1         7           Umatilla         1         2         1         2         2         8           Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         7           Weiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25           Willamette         2         2         1         3         2         2         14	Salt	1		7. }	9 _	_8_	4	1	+	- {	30
St. John         1         4         4         9           Sweetwater         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1         7           Umatilla         1         2         1         2         2         8           Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         7           Neiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25           Willamette         2         2         2         1         3         2         2         14	San Juan			}	3 1	_2	3	3	- :	-	11
Sweetwater         4         2         3         5         6         2         4         26           Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1         7           Umatilla         1         2         1         2         2         8           Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         7           Weiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25           Willamette         2         2         2         1         3         2         2         14	Snake above Palisades	1				_1	2	_5	7 _	4	20
Tahoe-Truckee         2         1         1         1         1         7           Umatilla         1         2         1         2         2         8           Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         7           Meiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25           Willamette         2         2         2         1         3         2         2         14	St. John		<u>}</u>			1	4	4	,	;	9
Umatilla         1         2         1         2         2         8           Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         1         7           Weiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25           Willamette         2         2         2         1         3         2         2         14	Sweetwater	4	2	3	5	6	2	_4_			_26
Verde         2         6         9         6         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         1         7           Weiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25           Willamette         2         2         1         3         2         2         14	Tahoe-Truckee			2	1	_ 1	1	_1	1 ;		7
Verde         2         6         9         8         4         2         31           Walker         2         1         1         1         1         7           Weiser         2         2         3         3         5         3         4         3         25           Willamette         2         2         2         1         3         2         2         14	Ilmatilla	1	2	1		2	2				
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Willamette 2 2 2 1 3 2 2 14		2	2	3	3	5	3	4	3		25
600					1	3	2	2	$\bot I$		14
			50	73	84	121	82	77	45	13	606

Users reported that they were checking the satellite snowcover accuracy by using runoff data, snow course data, hydromet networks, aerial surveys (both fixed and rotary wing) and mathematical models (SSAR and FLOCAST were mentioned).

Users requested coverage for over 30 additional basins. Several of the users requested that the data be transmitted to them in a more timely fashion, i.e., over telecopier rather than through the mail. A sample of the questionnaire is in Appendix A.

#### DEVELOPMENT

#### TIROS-N

The first of a new generation of polar orbiting satellite, TIROS-N was launched on October 13, 1978. A second satellite in this series, NOAA-A will be launched in early 1979. Together, the satellites will be able to provide coverage four times daily (0300, 0730, 1500, 1930 Local Standard Time) over most areas in the United States and Canada. Each satellite will have an Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) onboard which will be able to provide coverage in the following five channels:

Channe1	1	.5868 um
Channel	2	.725-1.0 um
Channel	3	3.55-3.93 um
Channel	4	10.5-11.5 um
Channe1	5	11.5-12.5 um

Several studies (Strong, et al., 1971; Wiesnet et al., 1975; and O'Brien and Munis, 1975) have shown that it is often possible to detect metamorphosed (or melting) snow and ice by comparisons of simultaneous Landsat visible (MSS-5) and near infrared (MSS-7) imagery. These studies indicate that the reflectance of metamorphosed snow and ice is less in the near infrared than that of fresh nonmelting snow. The availability of simultaneous AVHRR visible (Channel 1) and near infrared (Channel 2) imagery may thus allow NESS investigators to give operational reports on the age and condition of river basin snowcover as well as its areal extent.

#### High Resolution Film Loops

One-kilometer-resolution GOES images can be generated every half-hour and strung together to make a film loop. The loop can then be run continuously through a projector, displaying the same sequence of images over and over. These loops have been found helpful in discriminating between cloud and snow, and in monitoring shadow effects on snow fields, fog dissipation, cumulus buildups and snow melt.

#### Interactive Snowmapping

Two new interactive computer systems named VIRGS (VISSR Interactive Registration and Gridding System) were delivered to NESS in June 1978. A feasibility study concerning use of the VIRGS for operational snowmapping has already been carried out at the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin (Gird, 1979). To use the system for snowmapping, basin perimeters drawn on standard aeronautical charts are first converted into grid points through the use of an electronic digitizing board, and are then read into the VIRGS. The basin outlines can then be displayed on the system video screen at any time by typing a single command on the keyboard. A joy-stick cursor is used to outline snowcover on the video screen; area statistics software on the VIRGS are invoked to calculate and print out the basin snowcover percentages. Advantages of this system overpure photointerpretation include ease of basin registration and measurement of areal snowcover as well as the ability to display time-sequenced sets of images. Present disadvantages include lengthly set-up time, lack of hard-copy output and "jumpiness" of the joy-stick cursor.

#### All Digital Snowmapping

A project is underway at NESS to check the feasibility of doing all digital snowmapping using 4 km visible GOES data. The test area includes nine contiguous basins in the Sierra Nevada. These basins offer a wide variety of terrain characteristics and ground cover for control purposes; they are also of ideal size and location as viewed from the westcoast geostationary satellite. Data used in this experiment are stored on computer disk packs for 24 hours. Snow maps for all nine basins can be done as often as five times daily: 1645Z, 1745Z, 2045Z, 2145Z and 0045Z. The model involves the thresholding of each individual basin pixel for snowcover and takes into account solar illumination angles as well as the nature of ground cover. Detailed descriptions of this snowmapping model as well as preliminary results for the 1978-1979 snow season are presented in Tarpley, et. al. (1979).

#### FINAL COMMENTS

An operational satellite snowmapping program for selected river basins is now in place at the National Environmental Satellite Service. Owing to the combined success of this program and the NASA Snow ASVT, a larger number of requests for support have been received than can be handled given present manpower and fiscal restraints. Expansion of the program can therefore only come about through the development of more efficient (i.e., automated) techniques for snowmapping. This is the goal towards which satellite snow specialists must now direct their efforts.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix A

# Satellite Snowmapping Questionnaire

Respondent Name Affiliation  Address  Phone (commercial)	
Address  Phone (commercial) FTS (if available  How are NESS satellite snow maps transmitted to you?  Teletype  Telecopier Mail  For what purposes are the snowcover data used now?  runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation snow survey cross check water resource planning hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
Address  Phone (commercial) FTS (if available  How are NESS satellite snow maps transmitted to you?  Teletype  Telecopier  Mail  For what purposes are the snowcover data used now?  runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation snow survey cross check hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins  other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
Phone (commercial)	
Phone (commercial) FTS (if available  How are NESS satellite snow maps transmitted to you?  Teletype  Telecopier Mail  For what purposes are the snowcover data used now?  runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation flood prevention snow survey cross check water resource planning hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins  other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
How are NESS satellite snow maps transmitted to you?  Teletype  Telecopier  Mail  For what purposes are the snowcover data used now?  runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation_ flood prevention snow survey cross check_ water resource planning hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins  other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
Telecopier  Mail  For what purposes are the snowcover data used now?  runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation flood prevention snow survey cross check water resource planning hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins  other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
Mail  For what purposes are the snowcover data used now?  runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation flood prevention snow survey cross check water resource planning hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins  other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
For what purposes are the snowcover data used now?  runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation snow survey cross check hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins  other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
For what purposes are the snowcover data used now?  runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation snow survey cross check hydroelectric power generation. The seearch & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation flood prevention snow survey cross check water resource planning hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins  other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
runoff forecasting reservoir/dam regulation flood prevention snow survey cross check water resource planning hydroelectric power generati Research & Development irrigation planning inclusion in state/regional bulletins  other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
Water resource planning hydroelectric power generating inclusion in state/regional bulletins other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
Water resource planning hydroelectric power generating inclusion in state/regional bulletins other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	,
other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	on
other  How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	-
How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
How do you plan to use the snowcover data in the future?	
	_
Are you satisfied with the timeliness with which you receive	
the snowcover data?	

6.	Are you satisfied with the frequency with which you are receiving snowcover data? (check one)
	Frequency about right How often do you receive snowmaps now in an average week?  Need more frequently (if so, how frequent)
	Need less frequently (if so, how frequent)
7.	Are there additional river basins in your geographic area of responsibility you wish to have covered? Please identify.
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
8.	Are there additional institutions/agencies in your area that might wish to receive satellite snow maps? Please identify
9.	How would you rate the accuracy of the satellite snow maps?
	Poor Fair Good Excellent
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
10.	How do you check the accuracy of the snow cover data?
	runoff data
	snow course data
	hydromet network
	aerial surveys
	aerial surveysmathematical model (i.e., SSARR)
	other
11.	Comemol Docemmondations
	General Recommendations
	General Recommendations
	General Recommendations

Appendix B

# AMERICAN

# 1977 - 1978

<u>Date</u>	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 23	44	April 2	39
November 30	33	April 9	38
December 5	16	April 12	28
December 12	21	April 21	49
December 18	44	May 3	28
December 24	33	May 7	29
January 7	48	May 11	27
January 20	44	May 17	24
January 23	62	May 22	22
January 26	45	May 25	19
February 1	42	May 30	16
February 14	47	June 4	14
February 22	46	June 11	
March 24	40	June 21	9 7
March 27	35	<del>-</del>	·

# AMERICAN

# 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 17	13	February 25	50
November 23	9	March 5	42
December 31	10	March 10	40
January 4	64	March 19	38
January 8	53	March 28	33
January 17	42	April 4	25
January 27	29	April 14	18
February 1	23	April 20	13
February 9	41	May 19	22
February 15	29	•	

# AMERI CAN

# 1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
December 3	19	March 9	46
December 7	19	March 10	45
December 28	14	March 17	36
January 2	10	March 20	45
January 15	9	March 25	41
January 19	15	March 29	35
January 20	14	April 19	27
January 26	26	April 23	23
February 2	17	April 30	15
February 10	31	May 3	16
February 20	55	May 11	12
February 24	49	May 13	12
March 4	63	May 16	12
March 6	48	May 18	10

#### AMERCIAN

# 1974 - 1975

<u>Date</u>	Percent Snowcover	<u>Date</u>	Percent Snowcover
November 12	4	March 26	56
November 17	5	March 28	56
November 19	13	March 30	50
November 23	20	March 31	50
November 26	23	April 1	48
December 1	21	April 12	51
December 7	22	April 13	55
December 15	13	April 16	54
December 17	18	April 17	54
December 23	24	April 18	52
January 11	30	April 27	46
January 13	28	April 28	48
January 17	32	May 1	48
January 19	25	May 6	43
January 21	20	May 8	48
January 22	24	May 12	43
January 24	23	May 16	37
January 25	23	May 18	37
January 28	22	May 23	42
January 30	22	May 25	37
February 11	62	May 27	35
February 16	52	May 29	26
February 21	46	May 30	31
February 23	46	May 31	30
February 24	43	June 4	29
February 25	40	June 8	20
February 26	42	June 10	19
February 28	38	June 14	17
March 1	38	June 16	13
March 3	44	July 1	14

# AMERICAN

Date	Percent Snowcover	<u>Date</u>	Percent Snowcover
January 21	40	May 10	32
January 30	42	May 13	31
February 4	39	May 20	21
February 6	38	May 21	19
February 12	22	May 23	25
March 13	29	May 26	17
April 4	31	May 31	16
April 15	39	June 5	11
April 17	38	June 10	11
April 30	34	June 13	8
May 3	30	June 18	4
May 6	32		•

# **AMERICAN**

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
Febryary 23	36	May 8	17
February 28	67	May 10	24
March 2	40	May 14	22
March 12	44	May 18	19
March 15	46	May 23	12
April 2	41	May 29	7
April 8	33	June 2	6
April 11	36	July 2	1
May 2	25	July 4	T

BOISE

# 1977-1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 6 November 30 December 5 December 20 January 1 January 7 January 23 February 19 February 20 February 28 March 6 March 10 March 15	28 82 64 98 100 86 89 94 94 88 82 89	March 18 March 26 March 29 April 9 April 12 April 23 May 3 May 8 May 31 June 4 June 7 June 17 June 27 July 9	78 75 68 57 53 39 31 33 23 22 21 19

BOISE

1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Śnowcover
November 30	7	March 25	40
December 15	11	April 4	43
December 19	11	April 7	39
December 28	12	April 12	24
February 17	20	April 15	21
February 20	13	April 20	15
March 5	88	April 27	13
March 11	70	May 13	16
March 16	82	May 31	10
March 22	59	June 5	8

BOISE 1975-1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 12 November 18 December 3 December 9 January 16 January 20 January 25 January 28 February 1 February 7 March 10 March 12 March 21 March 29 April 4 April 8 April 10 April 14	70 38 96 81 96 94 96 93 94 97 93 88 89 93 85 80 65 63	April 16 April 17 April 21 April 23 April 29 May 1 May 9 May 12 May 13 May 15 May 17 May 21 May 26 June 5 June 18 June 26 July 3	70 58 55 66 40 33 32 29 29 29 29 29 19 16 14

BOISE

1974 - 1975

<u>Date</u>	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 26	87	May 12	68
December 1	93	May 13	57
December 5	70	May 14	60
December 29	100	May 25	42
January 21	98	May 29	34
February 25	88	June 1	32
March 5	88	June 5	27
March 6	90	June 6	26
March 28	88	June 10	21
March 29	88	June 14	18
April 1	90	June 16	16
April 12	88	June 22	15
April 20	86	June 29	12
May 10	68	July 5	10

BOISE

Date	Percent Snowcover
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
May 16	38
May 31	15
June 8	30
June 10	21

# CARSON

# 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover
January 21	-
January 24	-
February 23	-
March 25	-
April 22	8
May 25	7
June 25	3

# CHEMUNG

1974 - 1975

Date		Percent Snowcover
November	23	68
November	27	80
February	2	30
February	21	83
March 9		43
March 18		59
April 9		44
April 11		11
April 14		8
April 16		8

# CLEARWATER

# 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 20	92	March 29	63
December 20	<b>9</b> 9	April 9	59
January 30	98	June 1	32
February 12	100	June 4	25
February 22	82	June 7	21
March 10	76	June 20	14
March 15	87	June 27	12
March 18	76	July 1	11
March 21	72	July 9	9
March 27	63	-	

#### CLEARWATER

# 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 20	2	March 11	72
November 30	26	March 22	79
December 1	27	April 4	73
December 3	25	April 7	67
December 16	42	April 12	56
December 19	35	April 23	34
December 28	55	April 27	37
February 7	77	June 5	10
February 20	49		

# CLEARWATER

# 1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 13	44	April 29	70
November 18	80	May 1	66
December 21	77	May 9	54
January 20	87	May 12	52
January 31	88	May 13	49
March 4	92	May 15	48
March 6	90	May 19	41
March 8	89	May 21	37
March 12	88	June 5	27
April 4	75	June 18	21
April 5	73	June 26	19
April 8	71	July 2	15

# CLEARWATER

# 1974 - 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
December 1	41	May 14	67
December 29	95	June 1	49
December 31	97	June 10	42
March 6	88	June 29	26
April 10	87	July 2	13
April 12	76	July 5	14
May 10	70	July 8	10
May 13	62	July 11	6

#### CLEARWATER

Date	Percent Snowcover
April 13	91
May 3	78
June 10	31

# COLUMBIA ABOVE MICA

1978

Date	Percent Snowcover
May 6	74
May 17	59
May 18	61
June 1	59
June 4	55
June 28	50
July 19	33
July 23	24
July 25	18
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# COLUMBIA ABOVE MICA

1977

Date	Percent Snowcover
May 23	63
June 5	62
June 6	50
June 17	31
July 23	17

#### COLUMBIA ABOVE MICA

1976

Date	Percent Snowcover
June 18	54
July 3	52
July 15	44
July 18	44
July 25	<b>3</b> 9
August 30	16

# COLUMBIA ABOVE MICA

Date	Percent Snowcover
May 21	57
July 1	40
July 4	37
July 5	32
July 9	27
August 12	17
September 13	15

# COLUMBIA ABOVE REVELSTOKE

1974

Date	Percent Snowcover
March 7	69
March 25	87
April 13	74
May 20	54
June 12	58
June 19	48

#### COLUMBIA ABOVE REVELSTOKE

Date	Percent Snowcover
May 18	65
June 22	36

# DESCHUTES

# 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 8	2	March 18	24
November 20	93	March 26	17
December 31	100	April 9	10
January 23	51	April 12	9
February 28	29	May 8	5
March 14	24	-	

# DESCHUTES

# 1976 - 1977

Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
2	February 14	2
1	March 5	39
100	April 4	10
23	April 14	9
23	April 27	6
	2 1 100 23	2 February 14 1 March 5 100 April 4 23 April 14

# DESCHUTES

# 1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 12	76	March 6	52
December 9	3	March 12	38
January 18	45	April 4	27
January 25	36	April 5	23
January 28	38	April 14	22
February 1	34	April 23	30
February 5	71	May 20	9
·		June 14	2

# DESCHUTES

# 1974 - 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
December 23	92	April 12	38
December 25	86	April 20	32
December 28	70	April 30	29
December 31	66	May 1	26
January 18	45	May 12	19
January 21	41	May 17	17
January 27	100	May 25	13
January 30	100	May 29	11
February 21	67	May 31	10
February 23	54	June 8	8
March 27 March 28	86 78	June 9 June 14	8 5



FEATHER

# 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 6	30	March 6	61
November 30	14	March 10	67
December 8	6	March 14	59
December 19	85	March 25	52
December 24	64	April 1	51
January 7	73	April 12	36
January 20	66	April 21	59
January 24	69	May 3	20
January 29	68	May 7	27
February 3	73	May 10	14
February 11	74	May 17	14
February 19	66	May 30	9
February 22	65	June 4	7
February 28	63		

# FEATHER

# 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 26	62	March 10	54
January 30	54	March 19	46
February 1	50	March 21	42
February 6	43	March 26	62
February 11	42	March 27	40
February 14	<b>3</b> 8	April 4	28
February 24	7 <del>.</del>	April 12	16
February 27	69	April 20	9
March 5	57	May 20	5

# GENESEE (ABOVE PORTAGEVILLE, NEW YORK)

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#### 1974-1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 23	80	March 18	78
November 27	81	April 9	80
January 31	-	April 11	37
February 2	100	April 14	29
February 21	100	April 16	16
March 9	80	-	

# GENESEE (ABOVE PORTAGEVILLE, NEW YORK)

#### 1974

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
February 12	81	April 10	100
March 18	100	April 11	100

# GENESSE (BELOW PORTAGEVILLE, NEW YORK)

	1974 - 1975		
Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 23	62	March 18	43
November 27	89	April 9	100
January 31	76	April 11	7?
February 2	46	April 14	67
February 21	84	April 16	24
March 9	91	-	

# GENESEE (BELOW PORTAGEVILLE, NEW YORK)

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
February 12	93	April 10	100
March 18	95	April 11	67

# HUMBOLDT

# 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 8	7	February 20	95
November 20	40	February 21	89
November 23	45	February 23	79
November 28	8	February 24	73
December 19	88	February 28	65
December 25	73	March 14	54
January 1	79	March 15	44
January 7	66	March 20	22
January 15	69	March 25	18
January 21	80	April 9	34
January 24	91	April 12	14
January 29	78	April 19	8
February 8	58	May 8	8
February 12	99	May 12	6
-	HUMBOLDT	•	

1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover
November 17	3
November 28	1
January 6	98
January 24	80
January 25	84
January 26	<b>7</b> 5
February 2	68
February 4	64
February 13	14
March 6	45
March 8	24
March 11	42
March 21	17
March 26	11
April 4	32
April 6	8
April 19	3
-	

# HUMBOLDT

# 1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
December 2	62	February 21	54
December 3	54	February 24	43
December 8	16	February 26	32
December 14	89	March 5	57
December 17	76	March 7	41
December 21	51	March 8	28
January 17	57	March 9	23
January 19	48	March 12	30
January 20	48	March 20	35
January 21	41	April 2	19
January 25	75	April 7	10
January 31	34	April 17	10 27
February 3	28	April 21	11
February 7	72	Agril <sub>1</sub> 29	ð

JOHN DAY

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Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 8 November 20 December 18 December 19 December 31 January 23 January 27 February 8 February 21	5 96 77 75 100 51 37 39	February 28 March 14 March 18 March 26 April 9 April 12 May 8	3 41 37 28 15 17 14 4
	JOHN DAY		
	1976 - 1977		
Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 27 November 29 December 28 January 5 January 27 January 30 February 14 February 17	22 9 2 100 62 62 8 7	March 5 March 14 March 30 April 4 April 6 April 12 April 20	65 47 42 32 25 12
	JOHN DAY		
	1975-1976		
Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 12 December 9 January 1 January 18 January 19 January 20 January 21 January 25 January 28 February 1 February 5 February 20 March 4	54 8 76 47 42 42 42 44 41 38 86 74 69	March 6 March 8 March 12 March 29 April 4 April 5 April 14 April 23 May 9 May 20 June 5 June 14	49 46 46 50 38 32 20 23 7 8 2

JOHN DAY 1974 - 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
December 23	80	March 27	73
December 28	69	March 28	68
December 31	70	March 28	62
January 18	56	March 29	68
January 21	46	April 12	40
January 27	100	April 20	42
January 30	100	April 30	38
February 15	54	May 1	28
February 21	81	May 12	21
February 23	54	May 17	13
February 24	52	May 25	10
February 25	47	May 29	6
March 5	41	May 31	7
March 13	51	June 8	6
March 16	54	June 10	3
March 20	56	June 14	2

## KOOTENAY

## 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
May 8	48	June 20	32
May 19	41	June 28	26
June 1	43	July 14	16
June 4	40	July 15	16
June 7	34	July 25	6

## KOOTENAY

Date	Percent Snowcover
April 12	49
April 25	39
May 30	41
Juno 5	30
June 9	22
June 17	16

## LAKE OF THE WOODS (4 Sub-basins) 1977

Date	Basin	Percent Snowcover
March 21	Lake of the Woods Namakan Lake Rainy Lake Rainy River	76 53 67 59
March 28	Namakan Lake Rainy Lake Rainy River	6 58 9
March 31	Lake of the Woods Namakan Lake Rainy Lake Rainy River	100 100 100 100
April 10	Lake of the Woods Rainy Lake Rainy River	42 62 0
	LAKE OF THE WOODS (4 Sub-basins) 1976	
Date	Basin	Percent Snowcover
April 7	Lake of the Woods Namakan Lake Rainy Lake	42 94 94
April 11	Lake of the Woods Namakan Lake Rainy Lake	16 63 59
April 13	Lake of the Woods Namakan Lake Rainy Lake	16 54 58
April 15	Namakan Lake Rainy Lake	21 9
	LAKE OF THE WOODS (4 Sub-basins) 1975	
Date	Basin	Percent Snowcover
April 25	Lake of the Woods Namakan Lake Rainy Lake Rainy River	67 82 80 2

NORTH PLATTE (ALCOVA TO GUERNSEY) 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 9	81	March 7	67
November 10	49	March 8	64
November 20	100	March 11	43
December 20	82	March T8	15
December 25	70	March 20	17
January 2	98	March 27	14
January 22	100	March 30	15
February 4	90	April 12	10
February 13	100	April 24	6
February 21	100	May 9	70
February 23	79	May 12	28
February 28	100	May 15	4
March 4	93	May 22	4

# NORTH PLATTE (ALCOVA TO GUERNSEY) 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 24	3	February 20	18
Novebmer 27	100	February 24	87
December 6	97	March 1	69
December 12	78	March 13	54
December 14	58	March 15	41
December 15	43	March 22	47
December 18	29	March 23	33
December 28	56	March 27	22
January 5	100	April 6	28
January 24	51	April 10	19
January 27	41	Arril 14	15
February 3	43	April 21	11
February 7	31	April 23	10
February 9	27	May 2	6

## NORTH PLATTE (ALCOVA TO GUERNSEY) 1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 13	20	February 26	29
November 20	38	March 7	48
November 30	97	March 22	19
December 2	15	April 1	16
December 17	100	April 3	16
January 17	83	April 11	9
January 19	99	April 24	13
January 20	82	May 2	7
January 21	69	May 5	3
January 29	62	May 17	3
February 8	82	May 27	1
February 22	85	•	

# NORTH PLATTE (ALCOVA TO GUERNSEY) 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 1 January 29 February 6 February 16 February 25 March 18	83 100 100 100 56 100	March 28 April 14 April 24 May 3 May 15 May 26	100 19 12 13 6 3
	NORTH PLATTE (ALCOVA TO	GUERNSEY) 1974	
Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 2	100	March 11	26
January 27	100	March 29	14
February 2	26	April 5	33
February 6	100	April 16	27
February 25	90	May 1	9
March 1	26		
	NORTH PLATTE (ALCOVA TO GI	UERNSEY) 1973	
Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 26	39	April 28	81
March 7	28	May 11	12
April 1	32	May 16	11
April 5	28	May 23	4
April 12	27	May 31	2

## NORTH PLATTE (Seminoe)

1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 7	4	March 8	87
November 9	81	March 11	89
November 10	36	March 18	78
November 14	3	March 20	67
November 20	100	March 27	54
December 20	88	March 30	54
January 2	98	April 12	32
January 22	100	April 24	30
February 4	97	May 9	68
February 13	97	May 12	36
February 21	100	May 15	19
February 23	93	May 22	22
February 28	100	June 12	17
March 4	97	June 16	9
March 7	92		

# NORTH PLATTE (Seminoe)

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 4	2	February 9	51
November 7	1	February 20	34
November 15	13	March 1	80
November 24	3	March 8	59
November 27	96	March 13	76
December 6	98	March 15	65
December 12	79	March 22	54
December 14	55	March 23	50
December 15	54	March 27	41
December 18	42	April 6	52
December 28	82	April 10	33
January 5	90	April 14	28
January 24	84	April 21	21
January 25	79	April 23	18
January 27	76	May 2	14
January 30	65	May 8	12
February 3	58	May 9	11
February 7	56	June 5	5

## NORTH PLATTE (Seminoe)

## 1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 9	38	February 26	69
November 13	55	March 7	95
November 16	17	March 9	79
November 20	82	March 22	55
November 30	100	April 1	49
December 2	51	April 3	44
December 17	100	April 11	27
January 17	88	April 16	-
January 19	98	April 24	35
January 20	96	May 2	26
January 29	87	May 13	16
February 8	100	May 17	16
February 22	<b>9</b> 9	May 27	12
		June 5	7

# NORTH PLATTE (Seminoe)

## 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 1	100	April 24	33
January 29	100	May 3	34
February 6	100	May 15	24
February 16	100	May 26	15
February 25	93	June 5	16
March 18	99	June 20	9
March 28	100	June 26	8
April 14	52		•

## NORTH PLATTE (Seminoe)

## 1974

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 2	100	April 5	75
January 27	100	April 16	51
February 2	89	May 1	25
February 6	100	May 22	11
February 25	94	May 31	7
March 1	76	June 18	6
March 11	62		
March 29	53		

## NORTH PLATTE (Seminoe)

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 26	100	April 28	72
March 7	97	May 11	26
April 1	93	May 16	21
April 5	85	May 23	14
April 12	85	June 1	14

# PAYETTE

#### 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 6	25	March 27	71
November 30	78	March 29	64
December 5	73	April 9	68
December 20	95	April 12	61
January 1	96	April 23	50
January 7	81	May 8	44
January 23	85	May 31	31
February 19	96	June 4	25
February 20	94	June 7	23
February 28	85	June 17	22
March 10	85	June 27	19
March 15	82	July 9	9
March 18	81		

## PAYETTE (above Emmett)

## 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 30	3	April 4	62
December 15	32	April 7	49
December 19	31	April 12	36
December 28	32	April 15	35
February 17	45	April 20	27
February 20	43	April 27	24
March 5	81	May 13	16
March 11	72	May 31	10
March 16	77	June 5	8
March 22	66		
March 25	57		

# PAYETTE (above Emmett)

### 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
April 21	59	May 17	36
April 23	67	May 21	28
April 29	51	May 26	27
May 1	50	June 5	17
May 9	45	June 18	19
May 12	43	June 26	15
May 13	40	July 3	8
May 15	39	•	

# PAYETTE (above Emmett)

#### 1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 12	78	March 10	92
November 18	40	March 12	93
December 3	92	March 21	92
December 9	76	March 29	87
January 16	98	April 4	82
January 20	96	April 8	76
January 25	98	April 10	65
January 28	97	April 14	65
February 7	98	April 16	72
February 21	96	April 17	63

## PAYETTE (above Emmett)

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 26	85	May 10	73
December 1	94	May 12	<b>7</b> 5
December 5	66	May 13	60
December 29	98	May 14	60
January 21	100	May 25	58
February 25	91	May 29	41
March 5	88	June 1	40
March 6	88	June 5	34
March 28	87	June 10	31
March 29	88	June 14	31
April 1	88	June 16	27
April 12	88	June 22	26
April 20	84	June 29	20
May 8	79	July 3	16

#### RIO GRANDE ABOVE DEL NORTE

# 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 10	60	April 11	56
November 13	42	April 16	60
December 5	59	April 20	56
December 9	55	May 9	90
December 20	81	May 12	68
December 25	63	May 15	48
January 13	64	May 23	39
February 24	90	May 30	35
March 7	87	June 2	31
March 26	64	June 12	18
April 4	68	June 16	14
April 7	62		

## RIO GRANDE ABOVE DEL NORTE

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
February 19	33	April 16	34
February 23	93	April 21	73
March 12	74	April 23	26
March 14	55	May 2	23
March 15	49	May 4	31
March 19	46	May 7	19
March 23	41	May 11	15
March 27	39	May 17	27
March 30	39	May 22	17
April 7	55	May 30	14

#### RIO GRANDE ABOVE STATE LINE

#### 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 9	66	March 7	46
November 10	53	March 8	38
November 13	22	March 16	37
November 21	74	March 18	36
December 5	40	March 26	29
December 9	32	March 30	32
December 13	24	April 4	31
December 20	46	April 7	32
December 25	36	April 11	29
January 2	53	April 16	26
January 13	31	April 20	24
January 22	51	May 9	49
January 25	91	May 12	29
January 27	80	May 15	19
February 2	68	May 22	17
February 4	67	May 30	15
February 13	59	June 12	8
February 19	68		-
February 21 February 24	<b>5</b> 6	STATE LINE	

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 22	86	March 12	66
January 30	80	March 14	41
February 3	79	March 15	27
February 7	75	March 19	28
February 9	74	March 23	19
February 15	61	March 27	18
February 19	30	March 30	18
February 23	61	April 7	23
February 27	96	April 23	14
March 6	81	May 2	13
March 7	72	May 7	10
March 9	56	May 17	12

#### SACRAMENTO

Physical Province

# 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 6	15	March 14	29
December 8	2	March 20	18
December 19	97	March 25	19
December 24	90	April 9	21
December 24 January 25 January 29 February 11	90 439 63	April 12	11
February 11	63	May 3	10
February 19	45	May 7	10
February 22	34	May 17	5
February 28	28	May 30	4
March 10	26	June 4	2

#### SACRAMENTO

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 26	83	March 26	42
January 30	80	March 27	22
February 1	80	April 4	11
February 6	73	April 12	8
February 11	54	April 20	3
February 14	32	May 13	14
March 5	49	May 20	4
March 21	24	-	

## SALMON ABOVE WHITEBIRD

## 1977 - 1978

<u>Date</u>	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 6	42	March 29.	71
November 20	65	April 9	64
November 30	78	April 12	61
December 20	98	June 1	45
March 10	92	June 4	35
March 15	92	June 7	27
March 18	88	June 17	27
March 21	84	June 27	20
March 27	78	July 12	12

## SALMON

## 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 20	2	April 6	64
December 1	14	April 8	59
December 16	36	April 12	48
December 19	31	April 15	45
December 28	31	April 20	37
February 20	44	April 27	33
March 11	85	May 13	25
March 22	74	June 5	16

## SALMON

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 18	81	May 12	58
December 9	81	May 13	53
February 2	98	May 15	50
March 10	99	May 17	45
March 18	95	May 20	45
April 4	87	May 21	40
April 5	83	May 26	39
April 8	84	June 5	26
April 10	80	June 18	27
April 29	77	June 26	18
May 1	73	July 3	11
May 9	60	•	

# SALMON

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 17	21	June 1	50
November 26	58	June 5	46
December 1	62	June 10	42
March 6	96	June 14	36
March 28	97	June 29	26
April 10	93	July 2	15
April 12	91	July 3	16
April 20	87	July 7	15
May 10	82	July 11	9
May 13	72	_	
May 14	75		
May 29	57		

SALT . 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 9	5	March 7	15
January 2	5	March 8	13
January 7	4	March 14	31
January 13	8	March 15	16
January 22	34	March 16	16
January 25	26	March 20	16
January 26	22	March 25	10
January 28	17	March 28	10
February 3	17	April 3	10
February 16	77	April 5	8
February 17	70	April 11	7
February 19	48	April 20	4
February 20	47	May 8	4
February 22	27	•	
February 23	22		
February 25	18		

SALT

1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 17	2	February 14	9
November 28	44	February 15	9
November 29	39	February 19	5
November 30	23	February 23	4
December 1	18	February 26	27
December 2	8	February 27	14
December 4	7	February 28	12
December 8	4	March 2	40
January 6	58	March 3	12
January 9	81	March 6	5
January 10	58	March 30	38
January 12	50	March 31	22
January 13	14	April 4	48
January 15	44	April 5	29
January 24	19	April 6	16
January 28	19	April 7	16
January 31	16	April 10	5
February 3	15	-	
February 7	17		
February 8	12		
February 13	13		

SALT 1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 30	82	January 27	15
December 1	75	January 29	13
December 2	74	February 2	9
December 3	61	February 17	15
December 4	45	February 18	13
December 7	22	February 19	10
December 8	20	February 22	8
December 10	10	February 24	9
December 15	47	February 26	9
		March 9	21
December 17	30	March 13	44
December 18	20	March 14	13
December 28	20	March 15	12
December 29	15	March 18	9
January 1	57	March 20	8
January 3	50	March 24	7
January 5	36	March 30	36
January 6	19	April 1	17
January 7	12	April 4	7
January 8	10	April 18	61
January 11	8	April 20	20
January 15	7	April 21	7
January 17	6	April 24	4
January 21	6		
January 25	21		
January 26	15		

SALT 1974 - 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 4	14	February 23	43
November 7	5	February 24	42`
November 10	2	February 27	29
December 7	15	March 1	17
December 10	3	March 3	17
December 15	2	March 17	29
December 24	41	March 24	15
January 3	76	March 30	<b>3</b> 5
January 4	67	April 3	27
January 5	44	April 5	13
January 12	40	April 6	13
January 14	30	April 16	16
January 18	9	April 20	11
January 20	9	April 22	10
January 25	8	April 24	9
February 2	21	April 28	8
February 6	20	April 30	6
February 11	23	May 1	5
February 12	17	May 3	4
February 18	70	May 7	4
February 19	64	May 13	3

SAN JUAN

## 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
February 3	96	May 9	11
February 18	71	May 12	15
February 22	54	May 15	5
March 16	24	•	•
March 25	19		
April 12	11		
April 18	9		
April 24	6		
-			

# SAN JUAN

## 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 29	45	January 15	92
December 1	39	January 17	92
December 3	37	January 31	58
December 4	31	February 7	41
December 8	27	February 13	34
December 11	21	February 18	25
December 13	13	February 26	47
December 21	6	March 6	32
December 27	10	March 12	10
January 6	100	March 30	6
January 11	96		

## SAN JUAN

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
December 2	70	January 30	31
December 4	56	February 2	33
December 6	31	February 11	41
December 16	59	February 13	32
December 17	59	February 19	29
December 19	43	February 22	28
December 29	56	February 25	16
January 16	40	March 6	22
January 17	37	March 18	8
January 19	33.5	March 20	8
January 20	32	March 23	5
January 21	29.4	March 26	5
January 29	38	April 24	5

SAN JUAN

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 5	13	February 19	67
November 7	14	February 23	80
November 12	10	February 24	62
November 13	9	February 25	51
November 20	6	March 1	29
November 21	5	March 3	27
December 1	7	March 19	27
December 3	6	March 30	40
December 16	21	April 3	27
December 17	20	April 5	18
December 18	17	April 14	23
December 22	16	April 16	16
December 24	81	April 20	15
January 5	95	April 22	13
January 18	<b>8</b> 8	April 24	12
January 20	78	April 30	10
January 22	67	May 3	10
January 26	34	May 11	9
February 1	26	May 13	7
February 2	26	May 15	7
February 6	65	May 26	7
February 11	59	June 11	4
February 12	30	June 3	5
February 18	77	June 5	5

## SNAKE ABOVE PALISADES

## 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 13	22	June 5	47
March 7	99	June 8	38
April 9	99	June 13	38
April 12	96	June 18	32
May 2	75	June 21	27
May 9	79	June 27	25
May 14	70	July 1	22
May 25	59	July 7	20
May 28	57	July 11	16
June 1	51	July 19	11

## SNAKE ABOVE PALISADES

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 4	20	April 23	35
November 14	10	April 27	43
November 23	9	May 9	33
November 27	83	June 1	27
April 13	67	June 5	24
April 19	60	June 15	12

# ST. JOHN

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
March 30 April 10 April 19	99 99 . 98	May 7 May 8 May 11	42 32 16
	ST. JOHN		
	1977		
Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
April 4 April 10 April 18 April 19	96 100 79 78	April 30 May 4 May 18	29 16 3
	ST. JOHN		
	1976		
<u>Date</u> March 23 April 6	Percent Snowcover 99 86	Date	Percent Snowcover
April 14 April 21	66 51	April 29 May l	29 16.
	ST. JOHN	•	•
	1975		
Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
April 15 April 20 May 1	100 100 71	May 10 May 14 May 17	35 21 15

#### SWEETWATER

#### 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 1	100	April 14	31
January 29	100	April 24	24
February 6	100	May 15	9
February 25	87	May 26	9
March 18	98	June 5	2
March 28	100	June 20	2
		June 26	1

#### SWEETWATER

#### 1974

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 2	100	March 29	27
January 27	100	April 5	46
February 2	64	April 16	30
February 6	100	May 1	16
February 25	92	May 22	4
March 1	64	May 31	2
March 11	41	June 18	1

#### SWEETWATER

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
January 26	100	May 11	15
March 7	91	May 16	13
April 1	87	May 23	4
April 5	84	May 31	3
April 12	74	•	
April 28	72		

#### SWEETWATER

## 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 7	3	March 4	88
November 9	96	March 7	71
November 10	78	March 8	68
November 20	100	March 11	49
December 20	56	March 18	43
December 25	45	March 20	35
January 2	100	March 27	29
January 13	98	April 12	14
January 22	100	April 24	5
February 4	99	May 9	86
February 13	100	May 12	38
February 21	100	May 15	6
February 23	93	May 22	7
February 28	100	•	

#### SWEETWATER

## 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 4	21	February 7	43
November 7	7	February 9	41
November 15	5	February 20	25
November 27	100	February 24	31
December 6	100	March 13	72
December 12	<b>8</b> 6	March 15	44
December 14	75	March 22	54
December 15	64	March 23	35
December 18	50	April 6	53
December 28	64	April 10	18
January 5	100	April 14	14
January 24	67	April 23	4
January 25	63	May 2	2
January 27	63	May 9	1
January 30	53	June 5	1
February 3	47		

## SWEETWATER

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 9	7	February 22	91
November 13	17	February 26	53
November 16	3	March 7	56
November 20	68	March 9	48
November 30	100	March 22	38
December 2	60	April 3	35
December 17	100	April 11	19
January 17	76	April 24	19
January 19	96	May 2	11
January 20	93	May 13	7
January 21	89	May 17	5
February 3	57	May 27	1
February 8	100	June 5	1

#### TAHOE-TRUCKEE

Date	Percent Snowcover
January 21	-
January 24	-
February 23	-
March 25	-
April 22	24
May 25	12
June 25	6

#### UMATILLA

## 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover
November 20	44
December 19	40
December 31	100
January 23	31
March 14	21
March 26	7
April 9	4
April 12	6

## UMATILLA

1977

Date	Percent Snowcover
January 5	100
January 27	34
March 5	40
April 4	13

# UMATILLA

1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover
November 12	36
January 18	36
February 5	68
March 4	<b>3</b> 6
March 6	25
March 8	22
March 29	<b>3</b> 5

# UMATILLA

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
December 23	35	March 20	40
December 31	29	March 27	30
January 21	25	March 28	32
January 27	96	April 12	14
January 30	96	April 20	16
February 15	23	May 1	13
February 21	55	May 12	6
February 24	26	May 25	2
February 25	26	•	

VERDE

1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 8	8	March 7	10
November 9	3	March 8	9
January 2	2	March 14	26
January 7	3	March 15	17
January 13	15	March 16	11
January 25	29	March 20	6
January 26	22	March 25	5
January 28	18	March 28	2
February 3	16	April 3	1
February 16	86	April 5	1
February 16	57	April 11	1
February 19	36	April 20	1
February 20 February 21	<del>30</del> 5	May 7	1
Pebruary 22 February 23	24 22	May 8	1
February 25	17		

VERDE

1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 28	5	February 7	15
November 29	3	February 13	9
November 30	2	February 14	8
December 1	1	February 15	8
December 2	1	February 19	2
January 4	44	February 26	28
January 9	53	February 27	13
January 10	46	February 28	12
January 11	41	March 2	7
January 13	35	March 3	8
January 15	39	March 6	4
January 24	23	March 30	2
January 28	19	April 4	36
January 31	17	April 5	24
February 2	15	April 6	8
February 3	15	April 7	4

VERDE

1975 - 1976

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 30	72	January 25	17
December 1	58	January 26	13
December 2	44	January 29	7
December 3	26	February 2	5 29
December 4	26	February 11	29
December 7	18	February 17	18
December 8	13	February 19	14
December 10	9	February 22	10
December 15	59	February 24	10
December 17	37	February 26	10
December 18	30	March 9	22
December 28	13	March 13	12
December 29	13	March 14	9
January 1	18	March 15	10
January 2	20	March 18	8
January 5	9	March 20	7
January 6	9	March 24	5
January 7	9	April 18	39
January 8	9	April 20	21
January 11	6	April 21	8
January 15	6	April 24	3
January 16	6	-	
January 21	6		

VERDE

1974 - 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 4	19	February 12	15
November 7	14	February 18	57
November 10	3	February 19	\$5
December 7	17	February 23	38
December 10	11	February 24	30
December 15	4	February 27	22
December 24	33	March 1	14
December 30	35	March 3	9
January 4	31	March 17	33
January 12	36	March 19	21
January 14	28	March 21	15
January 19	17	March 24	12
January 20	13	March 29	33
January 21	12	March 30	27
January 22	10	April 3	13
Januarý 25	_6	April 5	5
February 2	30 27	April 16	13
February 6 February 8	24	April 20	3
February 11	24	April 22	4
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		April 24	3

## WALKER

Date	Percent Snowcover
January 21	_
January 24	-
March 25	-
April 22	20
May 25	8
June 25	6

WEISER

## 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 6	6	March 29	24
November 30	71	April 9	31
December 5	44	April 12	20
December 20	93	April 23	17
Janaury 1	100	May 8	15
January 7	88	May 31	13
January 23	71	June 4	7
February 19	74	June 7	3
February 20	58		
February 28	50		
March 10	41		
March 15	41		
March 18	43		
March 26	32		

## WEISER

# 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	<u>Date</u>	Percent Snowcover
December 15	17	March 25	22
December 19	5	April 4	28
December 28	9	April 7	15
February 17	21	April 12	12
February 20	21	April 15	10
March 5	38	April 20	7
March 11	30	April 27	3
March 16	38	May 13	4
March 22	24	May 31	3

## WEISER

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 12	37	April 10	27
November 18	12	April 14	26
December 9	66	April 16	32
January 16	100	April 17	23
January 20	100	April 23	28
January 25	100	April 29	25
January 28	100	May 1	24
February 1	100	May 9	16
February 7	100	May 12	15
February 21	100	May 13	12
March 10	95	May 15	10
March 12	95	May 17	9
March 29	83	May 21	7
April 4	59	May 26	7
April 8	55	June 5	3
•		June 18	2

WEISER

1974 - 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 26	45	May 8	34
December 1	43	May 10	25
December 5	36	May 12	22
December 29	100	May 13	20
January 21	100	May 14	23
February 25	97	May 25	22
March 5	89	May 29	15
March 6	89	June 1	13
March 26	72	June 5	11
March 28	62	June 10	9
April 1	57	Jume 16	7
April 12	45	June 22	5
April 20	40		

## WILLAMETTE

## 1977 - 1978

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 8	6	March 20	11
November 20	27	March 26	9
December 25	18	April 9	12
December 31	20	April 12	7
January 23	27	May 7	4
January 24	20	May 8	3
February 19	19	•	
March 16	17		

## WILLAMETTE

#### 1976 - 1977

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 27	1	March 15, 16	32
December 8	1	March 21	25
January 5	29	April 4	20
January 24	7	April 14	22
January 27	4	April 19	20
January 30	4	Aparil 27	15
February 1	15	May 8	16
February 2	3	June 5	4
February 14	2		
March 5	34		

## WILLAMETTE

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
November 12	29	March 9	24
November 18	27	March 21	32
December 19	12	March 29	33
January 20	17	April 4	25
January 28	16	April 14	19
February 1	17	April 23	22
February 4	16	May 1	23
February 7	15	May 9	15
February 20	40	May 12	17
March 6	30	May 20	16
March 8	29	May 21	15
		June 14	3

WILLAMETTE

1974 - 1975

Date	Percent Snowcover	Date	Percent Snowcover
December 7	16	March 28	35
December 23	47	March 29	37
December 28	42	April 10	35
December 31	33	April 12	29
January 21	19	April 20	27
January 27	45	April 30	25
January 30	36	May 1	23
February 21	37	May 8	25
February 23	30	May 12	23
March 5	20	May 25	16
March 10	20	May 29	16
March 11	25	May 31	15
March 27	36	June 9	8
March 28	38	June 14	5

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# 16. Abstract

Geostationary and polar orbiting satellite data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been used to operationally provide field hydrologists with basin snowcover percentages for inclusion in runoff models. Data reduction is accomplished thru the use of optical rectification devices and electronic color density slicers. Over two thousand (2000) satellite-derived snow maps covering 30 different basins in the western United States were provided to users during the four-year period of the ASVT project. Plans for improving snowmapping techniques on computer interactive systems and by all-digital analysis are presented. A description of the newest generation of NOAA polar orbiters, TIROS-N, and its potential for snowmapping is reviewed. Snowcover percentages for all basins determined between November 1974 and July 1978 are presented in tabular format.

# 17. Key Words (Selected by Author(s)) Satellite snowcover, remote sensing, snowmelt runoff, snow hydrology, water supply forecasting 18. Distribution Statement Star Category 43 Unclassified - Unlimited

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